

*House of Representatives.*

There shall be, in the legislature of this state, a representation of the people, annually elected, and founded upon principles of equality; and in order that such representation may be as equal as circumstances will admit, every town, parish, or place, entitled to town privileges, having one hundred and fifty ratable male polls, of twenty-one years of age, and upwards, may elect one representative: if four hundred and fifty ratable male polls, may elect two representatives; and so proceeding, in that proportion, make three hundred such ratable polls, the mean of increasing number, for every additional representative.

Such towns, parishes, or places, as have less than one hundred and fifty ratable polls, shall be classed by the general assembly, for the purpose of choosing a representative, and seasonably notified thereof. And in every class formed for the above-mentioned purpose, the first annual meeting shall be held in the town, parish, or place wherein most of the ratable polls reside; and afterwards in that which has the next highest number; and so on, annually, by rotation, through the several towns, parishes, or places forming the district.

Whenever any town, parish, or place, entitled to town privileges, as aforesaid, shall not have one hundred and fifty ratable polls, and be so situated as to render the classing thereof with any other town, parish, or place very inconvenient; the general assembly may, upon application of a majority of the votes of such town, parish, or place, issue a writ for their selecting and sending a representative to the general court.

The members of the house of representatives shall be chosen annually, in the month of March, and shall be the second branch of the legislature.

All persons qualified to vote in the election of senators shall be entitled to vote, within the district where they dwell, in the choice of representatives. Every member of the house of representatives shall be chosen by ballot; and for two years at least next preceding his election, shall have been an inhabitant of this state; shall have an estate within the district which he may be chosen to represent, of the value of one hundred pounds, one-half of which to be a freehold, whereof he is seized in his own right; shall be, at the time of his election, an inhabitant of the district he may be chosen to represent, and shall cease to represent such district immediately on his ceasing to be qualified as aforesaid.

The members of both houses of the legislature shall be compensated for their services out of the treasury of the state, by a law made for that purpose; such members attending seasonably, and not departing without license. All intermediate vacancies, in the house of representatives, may be filled up from time to time, in the same manner as annual elections are made.

The house of representatives shall be the grand inquest of the state; and all impeachments made by them shall be heard and tried by the senate.

All money-bills shall originate in the house of representatives; but the senate may propose or concur with amendments, as on other bills.

The house of representatives shall have the power to adjourn themselves, but no longer than two days at a time.

A majority of the members of the house of representatives shall be